

FY 2026-2027 BUDGET QUESTION
Response to Request for Information

DEPARTMENT(S): Austin Public Health;

CBQ NO.: 79

REQUESTED BY: (District 3) José Velásquez

DATE REQUESTED: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 9:20 AM

DATE POSTED: Tuesday, August 4, 2026

REQUEST:

On the service prioritization list, \$400,000 is eliminated from the healthy food program due to “minimal impact and limited support.” Could you please specify what “minimal impact and limited support” means?

RESPONSE:

The proposed reduction was identified as having minimal impact and limited support because the program reaches a relatively small number of Austin residents compared with the broader community need and Austin Public Health's overall service portfolio. The funding supports monthly food box distributions for approximately 350–400 individuals through the Central Texas Food Bank and approximately 1,880 annual customer encounters (not unduplicated), including about 500 City of Austin residents, through eight FarmShare mobile market sites and home-delivery services.

The service was also determined to provide limited support because comparable food assistance resources are available through community partners, including the Central Texas Food Bank and other nonprofit providers, allowing residents to continue accessing food assistance outside of this City-funded program.

While these services provide meaningful benefits to participating individuals, the program's limited Citywide reach and the availability of alternative community resources resulted in it being prioritized lower than other Austin Public Health programs that provide direct public health services or serve a larger number of Austin residents.